

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 COME-00 SCCT-02 INRE-00 AID-20

OMB-01 PC-10 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SY-03 DRC-01 EB-11 /143 W

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2588

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO FIVE

REF: ASMARA 211

1. AS A RESULT OF REPORT THAT SECOND DIVISION, SIXTH BRIGADE HAD DETERMINED TO PURSUE THE ELF CAPTORS OF THE TENNECO FIVE, I MADE LOCAL CONTACTS TO ATTEMPT CONFIRM REPORT. VICEMIN FOR AFFAIRS SOLOMON TECLE SAID HE KNEW LITTLE OF INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF SECOND DIVISION. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD ACT IN A WAY TO JEOPARDIZE LIVES OF TENNECO FIVE. I WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT GENERAL SYEOUM BECAUSE HE WAS VISITING THE EIGHTH BRIGADE AT AGORDAT. HOWEVER, THROUGH COLONEL SIMPSON, MAAG, I WAS ABLE TO CONTACT THE G-3, WHO ASSURED ME THE SIXTH BRIGADE WAS NOT PURSUING THE ELF. THEY HAD SENT AN ESCORT COMPANY WITH THE VILLAGE CHIEFS AND THEY HAVE OTHER ELEMENTS ENCAMPED IN THE AREA. IF THE ELF DOES NOT STUMBLE UPON ONE OF THESE GROUPS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE AN ARMED CONFRONTATION.

2. BURTCHAE LL REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MOD TO PROTEST ANY ACTION THAT WOULD
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ENDANGER THE LIVES OF THE TENNECO GROUP. I ASSURED HIM

THAT SUCH REPRESENTATION WAS BEING MADE AND THAT I WAS
CONTACTING THE SECOND DIVISION IN ASMARA.

3. BURTCHAELL SAID THAT THE VILLAGE CHIEFS IN THE AREA WERE
TELLING THE ELF TO RELEASE THEIR CAPTIVES OR LOSE THE
SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION. HE ADDED THAT THE
GOVERNOR GENERAL DECIDED TO REPLY TO THE DEMAND FOR NO
RETALIATION THROUGH THE VILLAGE CHIEFS RATHER THAN
THE PRESS. MOST SOURCES CONTACTED HAVE AN AIR OF
ACCOMMODATION WITH THE ELF, IN THIS INSTANCE, IN ORDER TO AVOID A
CONFRONTATION WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE THE LIVES OF THE TENNECO
GROUP. HOWEVER, GIVEN COMMAND BREAK-DOWN OVER PAST MONTH
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF THE DIVISION COULD ACT
ALONE, WITHOUT ORDERS.
PERRY

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